YALift! (Young Adult Louisville Income for Transformation!)
Guaranteed Income Pilot Project

Shared Values and Principles

Program Summary

- The YALift! Program (Young Adult Louisville Income for Transformation) is a basic income pilot aimed at providing small cohorts of 18–24-year-olds with a one-year foundation of financial stability. The payments will be $500/month for 12 months, no strings attached. The pilot is being collaboratively administered by Louisville Metro Government, Metro United Way, Russell: A Place of Promise, and Mayors for Guaranteed Income (MGI), and will focus on young adults in three neighborhoods of concentrated poverty: Smoketown, Russell, and California. Louisville is the 20th city to partner with MGI on a basic income pilot.

Beliefs & Rationales

- We believe poverty is not a choice, but rather an institutional failure perpetuated by a systemic lack of resources.
  ○ Systemic disinvestment and social welfare distrust have had inequitable effects on under-resourced communities.

- We value the voices and livelihoods of our young adults. When our young adults succeed, we all succeed.
  ○ The YALift! project will invest in expanding the capacity of young adults, allowing them greater flexibility to invest in their futures. A foundation of financial stability could allow these young adults to finish their education, provide for themselves and their families, pursue new career paths, etc.

- Basic income should never replace the social safety net.
  ○ As with Unemployment Insurance, guaranteed income should be in addition to—not in place of—existing social benefits, and provide a stronger foundation on which to build productive lives and careers. We are hopeful that providing such a foundation at a critical juncture of life will have long term positive impacts.

- We are committed to serving our people and gathering the data necessary to inform better policymaking.
  ○ The YALift! project will gather local data, stories, and independent research to complement a national push to advocate for a federal guaranteed income program. The results of Louisville’s pilot may ultimately provide a roadmap for basic income policies across the country.
  ○ We value the idea that we’re contributing to the bigger national body of evidence/advocacy, but we will always value the wellbeing of our residents over our interest in data.

- We will uphold commitments to collaboration and equity
- We honor the time, strategy, and perspective put into this project. We were deliberate with racial equity, inclusion, and community at the forefront of this project.